

HB 1879 -- SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Barnes

This bill specifies that the Department of Social Services must establish a pilot program for the purpose of providing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants with access and the ability to afford fresh fruit and vegetables when purchasing fresh produce at farmers' markets. Participants must be able to:

- (1) Purchase fresh produce with SNAP benefits with an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card; and
- (2) Receive a dollar-for-dollar match for every SNAP dollar spent at a participating farmers' market in an amount up to \$10 per week whenever the participant purchases fresh produce with an EBT card.

Purchases of approved fresh produce by SNAP participants must automatically trigger matching funds reimbursement into the vendor accounts by the department. The funding of this pilot program is subject to appropriation. In addition to appropriations from the General Assembly, the department may apply for available grants and is authorized to accept other gifts, grants, and donations to develop and maintain the program.

The provisions of this section will sunset automatically six years after the effective date of these provisions.